

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) is scheduled to be briefed on the Monterey County fires soon after he arrives in California on Friday afternoon and plans to visit the evacuation center in Big Sur.

"The first order of business is to make sure residents and emergency personnel are safe as work continues to contain the Basin Complex and Indians fires," Rep. Farr said. "Then we can begin the long process of recovery and help those who have been displaced."

Rep. Farr and several other members of the California congressional delegation are sending a letter to President Bush supporting Governor Schwarzenegger's request that Monterey County be declared a federal disaster area. A disaster declaration would allow residents and businesses to apply for federal disaster assistance. Schwarzenegger has already declared a state of emergency for Monterey County.

"These disasters beg for federal assistance," Rep. Farr said. "I agree with Governor Schwarzenegger's decision to request a disaster declaration so we can get emergency support to those who desperately need it. I'll continue to work with the California delegation in Washington to make sure assistance gets to where it is needed."

Basin Complex Fire Resources:

- **The Carmel Chapter of the Red Cross is offering support for evacuees. Call 831-624-6921.**
- **The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides assistance during emergencies and can offer compensation for property loss. For more information, call 1-800-621-3362 or visit www.fema.gov .**
- **Basin Complex Fire Base Station Information Line: 831-622-0189.**
- **U.S. Forest Service Basin Complex Information Line: 805-961-5770.**
- **Call the Monterey County SPCA for assistance with pet and livestock evacuation: 831-373-2631.**
- **The Indians Fire, east of Big Sur, also continues to burn and evacuation orders are in place.**

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Indians Fire Resources:

- **An evacuation center has been established at Greenfield Elementary School, 490 El Camino Real, 831-674-5586.**
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